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**Transmitter, Receiver and Transmitting Method in
Multi-carrier Transmission System**

Cross Reference to Related Application

5 This application is a continuation of
international PCT application No. PCT/JP99/05390 filed
on September 30, 1999.

Background of the Invention

10 **Field of the Invention**

 The present invention relates to a multi-carrier
transmission system for conducting communications by
dividing a transmission band into a plurality of
sub-carriers and is one of several broadband wireless
15 communications systems, and more specifically, relates
to a transmitter, a receiver and a transmitting method
for encoding in such a way that the peak power of a
transmitting signal can be suppressed in a multi-carrier
transmission system for conducting communications by
20 a QPSK-modulation method for mapping each sub-carrier
using a complex signal point expressed by two bits.

Description of the Related Art

 In broadband wireless communications,
25 frequency-selective fading, due to multi-path,

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degrading circuit quality is especially problematic. As a modulation method that has an excellent multi-path-proof fading characteristic, a multi-carrier transmission system shown in Fig. 21 is known. In this system, since a frequency-diversity effect can be obtained against frequency-selective fading by dividing a transmission band into a plurality of carriers (called "sub-carriers"), high-quality wireless transmission is possible. The orthogonal frequency-division multiplex (OFDM) technology shown in Fig. 22 is also one form of this system.

One of the problems of the multi-carrier technology is the increase of the peak power (or peak-to-average power ratio) of a transmitting signal. To compensate for the linearity of the system, a wide-range linear amplifier is needed. However, this amplifier is expensive and the power efficiency is low. If a cheap amplifier is used, non-linear distortion is caused by using a saturation region, and the characteristic degrades, which is a problem. For this reason, the technology cannot be put into practical use yet.

The solution of this problem is largely classified into two methods: (1) the restriction of input signals and (2) the restriction of output signals. The former

method prevents a signal pattern in which peak power is increased by an encoding process, from occurring and causes no characteristic degradation. Furthermore, if those codes can extend the minimum distance, the receiving characteristic (bit error rate (BER)) can also be improved. The latter method, for example, by utilizing the fact that the occurrence probability of a signal pattern for generating a peak power is low, compulsorily cuts peak power using a specific threshold value when the peak power exceeds the threshold value, which corresponds to clipping and the like. This technology increases a side-lobe level due to non-linear distortion, that is, it causes inter-carrier interference. Thus, the latter method degrades the characteristic. Although there is a method for normalizing the entire envelope level of a signal into a threshold level, eventually the S/N is degraded. Therefore, the method also degrades the characteristic. To implement broadband and high-quality wireless transmission, the former method is recommended.

As a peak suppression code, a complementary code is well known, and the application of the code to a multi-carrier modulation system is being studied. This code is applicable to a multi-phase modulation (M-ary PSK (MPSK)). In the case of N sub-carriers, this code

also provides an encoding rate of $R = (\log_2 N + 1) / N$, a minimum code distance of $d_{\min} = (\sqrt{N/2}) d$ and a peak power amount of $P_{\text{gain}} = 2/N P(N)$. In this case, d and $P(N)$ ($=N^2$) represent a distance between signals and peak power in

5 N sub-carriers, respectively. For example, in the case of four sub-carriers, $R = 3/4$, $d_{\min} = \sqrt{2} d$ and $P_{\text{gain}} = 1/2 P(2)$, and in the case of eight sub-carriers, $R = 1/2$, $d_{\min} = 2d$ and $P_{\text{gain}} = 1/4 P(4)$. Since the encoding rate decreases in proportion to the number of sub-carriers, the

10 reduction of transmission efficiency cannot be avoided even if the improvement of error correction capability is taken into consideration. By replacing eight sub-carriers with two sets of four sub-carriers, an eight-sub-carrier system can be operated as two

15 four-sub-carrier systems. However, even in this case, $R \leq 3/4$ and the encoding rate cannot be further increased.

The encoding rate, minimum distance and peak power amount described above are disclosed, for example, in

20 the following reference.

R.D.J. van Nee, "OFDM Codes for Peak-to-Average Power Reduction and Error Correction", IEEE Globecom 96, London, p.740-744 (Nov. 1996).

Since the encoding technology includes a

25 non-linear operation, it is difficult to implement the

technology by a logic circuit and an accordingly
implementation method using a look-up-table is mainly
adopted. Therefore, the encoding technology is not
suited for high-speed signal processing, which is a
5 problem.

An object of the present invention is to provide
a transmitter, a receiver and a transmitting method for
conducting high-performance wireless transmission by
not using a signal point pattern which increases the
10 peak power of a transmitting signal, as a signal point
pattern which is the base of a multi-carrier
transmitting signal and, for example, by performing
communications encoding for suppressing the peak power
to approximately 2dB at a high encoding rate (for example,
15 $R=7/8$) in view of the problem described above. Another
object of the present invention is to realize a high
speed by implementing the encoding by hardware.

Summary of the Invention

20 The present invention provides a transmitter in
a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting
communications using a modulation system for dividing
a transmission band into a plurality of sub-carriers
and, for example, mapping each carrier by a complex
25 signal point expressed by k bits. The transmitter

comprises an encoding unit converting transmission data information of the number of bits less than kn bits, which are data for expressing n sub-carriers, into a signal point pattern with the small peak power of a transmitting signal of signal point patterns expressed by the kn bits, the encoding unit composed of signal points, in which the signal point pattern with the small peak power is divided into two orthogonal groups in four quadrants of an IQ plane and having a sub-carrier generation unit for generating sub-carriers in which the signal point of a part of sub-carriers has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers, and a mapping unit for generating the transmitting signals of n sub-carriers using the output of the encoding unit. However, since it can be considered that the two orthogonal groups are a group, including the first and third quadrants of the IQ plane and a group, including the second and fourth quadrants, the present invention is also applicable to a modulation system other than QPSK.

The sub-carrier generation unit generates a sub-carrier with a phase condition in which a part of the signal point of $2k$ signal points of a modulation signal being dependent on a signal point of other sub-carriers, as a sub-carrier having the prescribed

collation described above.

The sub-carrier generation unit generates a sub-carrier in which, of the four signal points of a QPSK signal, the signal point of a part of the sub-carriers is dependent on the signal point of another sub-carrier.

The encoding unit suppresses peak power to 2dB at an encoding rate of 7/8 by generating eight sub-carrier mapping signals from seven information bits.

10 The present invention provides a receiver in a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting communications using a modulation system for dividing a transmission band into a plurality of sub-carriers and, for example, mapping each carrier by a complex
15 signal point expressed by k bits. The receiver comprises a hard decision decoding unit comprising a demapping unit converting a receiving signal transmitted from the transmitting side, which is obtained by converting transmission data information of the number of bits less
20 than kn bits, which are data for expressing n sub-carriers, into a signal point pattern with the small peak power of a transmitting signal, of signal point patterns expressed by the kn bits, a mapping signal generation unit generating all signal point patterns
25 which might be transmitted from a transmitting side,

and a hard-decision decoding unit further comprising
a comparison unit comparing the signal point pattern
outputted from the demapping unit with the signal point
pattern outputted from the mapping signal generation
5 unit and an output unit outputting data corresponding
to one signal point pattern, in which the signal point
pattern outputted from the demapping unit and the signal
point pattern outputted from the mapping signal
generation unit are matched, as a decoding data signal.

10 The mapping signal generation unit comprises a
timing control unit, including a counter sequentially
generating an information bit of less than 2k bits when
decoding n sub-carriers, and an encoding unit, inputting
the information bit outputted from the timing control
15 unit, and converting the information bit into a signal
point pattern with the small peak power of a transmitting
signal, of signal point patterns expressed by 2k bits,
the encoding unit composed of signal points in which
the signal point pattern with the small peak power is
20 divided into two orthogonal groups in four quadrants
of an IQ plane, comprising a signal point in which a
signal point corresponding to each sub-carrier has a
prescribed correlation, and a sub-carrier generator.
However, since it can be considered that the two
25 orthogonal groups are a group, including the first and

third quadrants of the IQ plane, and a group, including the second and fourth quadrants, the present invention is also applicable to a modulation system other than QPSK.

5 The receiver further comprises a transmission error detection unit detecting a transmission error when detecting a receiving signal that does not belong to any of signal point patterns which might be transmitted from a transmission side, of the outputs of the demapping
10 unit and a decoding operation stoppage control unit stopping a decoding operation by the hard-decision decoding unit when the transmission error detection unit detects a transmission error.

 The present invention provides a receiver in a
15 multi-carrier transmission system for conducting communications using a modulation system in which a transmission band is divided into a plurality of sub-carriers and, for example, each carrier is mapped by a complex signal point expressed by k bits. The
20 receiver comprises a demapping unit, converting a receiving signal transmitted from the transmitting side by a sub-carrier in which transmission data information of the number of bits less than kn bits is converted into a signal point pattern with the small peak power
25 of a transmission power out of signal point patterns

expressed by the kn bits, in which the signal point pattern with the small peak power is composed of signal points to be divided into two orthogonal groups in four quadrants of an IQ plane and in which the signal point

5 of a part of the sub-carriers has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers, into a demapping signal used to compare the receiving signal with all the signal point patterns that might be transmitted from the transmitting side, and a

10 transmission error detection unit, detecting a transmission error when detecting in the output of the demapping unit a receiving signal that does not belong to any of the signal point patterns which might be transmitted from the transmission side.

15 The present invention provides a receiver in a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting communications using a modulation system in which a transmission band is divided into a plurality of sub-carriers and, for example, each carrier is mapped

20 by a complex signal point expressed by k bits. The receiver comprises a soft decision decoding unit further comprising, a mapping unit, mapping to convert all the signal point patterns which are expressed by kn bits in relation to n sub-carriers and might be transmitted

25 from the transmitting side, into the respective

transmitting signals of the n sub-carriers as on the transmitting side and outputting a transmission available signal, and an output unit, outputting a signal point pattern before the mapping of a transmission available signal with the shortest code distance of the code distances between both a receiving signal transmitted from the transmitting side by a sub-carrier in which transmitting data information of the number of bits less than kn bits is converted into a signal point pattern with the small peak power of a transmission power of signal point patterns expressed by the kn bits, in which the signal point pattern with the small peak power is composed of signal points to be divided into two orthogonal groups in four quadrants of an IQ plane, and in which the signal point of a part of the sub-carriers has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers and a transmission available signal as a decoding data signal.

The output unit comprises a code distance calculation unit calculating the distance between the receiving data signal and the output of the mapping unit, a minimum distance memory unit storing the minimum code distance, a code distance comparison unit comparing the output of the minimum distance memory unit and the output of the code distance calculation unit and updating the

minimum distance unit when the code distance is shorter than the distance stored in the minimum distance memory unit, and a memory unit outputting data corresponding to the minimum distance as decoding data.

5 The receiver further comprises an error correction decoding unit performing the error correction decoding of a receiving data signal using the code distances between the receiving signal and all the transmission available signals.

10 The present invention provides a transmitting method in a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting communications using a modulation system in which a transmission band is divided into a plurality of sub-carriers and, for example, each carrier is mapped
15 by a complex signal point expressed by k bits. The transmitting method comprises the steps of generating a sub-carrier in which a signal point pattern with small peak power is composed of signal points to be divided into two orthogonal groups in the four quadrants of an
20 IQ plane and in which the signal point of a part of the sub-carriers has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers, and generating a transmitting signal by mapping the encoding result.

 The present invention provides a receiving method
25 in a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting

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communications using a modulation system in which a transmission band is divided into a plurality of sub-carriers and, for example, each carrier is mapped by a complex signal point expressed by k bits. The receiving method comprises a hard decision decoding step consisting of demapping step demapping a receiving signal transmitted from the transmitting side by a sub-carrier in which transmission data information of a number of bits less than kn bits is converted into a signal point pattern with the small peak power of a transmission power output of signal point patterns expressed by the kn bits, in which the signal point pattern with the small peak power is composed of signal points to be divided into two orthogonal groups in four quadrants of an IQ plane and in which the signal point of a part of the sub-carriers has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers, into a demapping signal, mapping signal generation step generating all the signal point patterns which might be transmitted from the transmitting side, comparison step comparing the output of the demapping step with the output of the mapping signal generation step, and output step outputting the transmission data information corresponding to a signal point pattern, the match of which is detected, as a decoding data

signal.

The present invention provides a receiving method in a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting communications using a QPSK modulation system in which

5 a transmission band is divided into a plurality of sub-carriers and, for example, each carrier is mapped by a complex signal point expressed by k bits. The receiving method comprises a soft decision decoding step further comprising mapping step mapping to convert all

10 the signal point patterns that are expressed by kn bits in relation to n sub-carriers and might be transmitted from the transmitting side, into the respective transmitting signals of the n sub-carriers, and output step outputting transmission data information

15 corresponding to the signal point pattern before mapping of transmission available signal with the smallest code distance of the code distances between a receiving signal received from the transmitting side by a sub-carrier in which transmission data information of

20 the number of bits less than kn bits is converted into a signal point pattern with the small peak power of a transmission power of signal point patterns expressed by the kn bits, in which the signal point pattern with the small peak power is composed of signal points to

25 be divided into two orthogonal groups in four quadrants

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of an IQ plane and in which the signal point of a part of the sub-carrier has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers and transmission available signals as a decoding data signal.

5 The present invention provides a transmitter in a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting communications using a modulation system in which a transmission band is divided into a plurality of sub-carriers and, for example, each carrier is mapped
10 by a complex signal point expressed by k bits. The transmitter comprises an encoding unit converting transmission data information of the number of bits less than kn bits, which are data for expressing n sub-carriers, into a signal point pattern with the small
15 peak power of a transmitting signal of signal point patterns expressed by the kn bits, the encoding unit further comprising a sub-carrier generation unit generating a sub-carrier, in which the signal point pattern with the small peak power is divided into two
20 orthogonal groups in four quadrants of an IQ plane and the signal point of a part of a sub-carrier has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers.

 The present invention having the configuration
25 described above provides both a transmitter with an

encoder implementing a high encoding rate of $7/8$ while suppressing peak power to approximately 2dB and a receiver decoding the transmitted signals by the transmitter.

5

Brief Descriptions of Drawings

Fig. 1 shows the basic configuration of the present invention.

Fig. 2 shows the signal point mapping of QPSK modulation.

Fig. 3 shows the phase conditions of a four-sub-carrier signal point.

Fig. 4 shows one signal point meeting the phase condition (1) shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 shows one signal point pattern meeting the phase condition (2) shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 shows the number of signal point patterns meeting the phase conditions shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 7 shows respective peak power suppression amounts at each sub-carrier-number.

Fig. 8 shows the configuration of a four-sub-carrier encoder.

Fig. 9 shows one circuit configuration of a two-sub-carrier generation unit.

Fig. 10 shows the configuration of a 4n-

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sub-carrier encoder.

Fig. 11 shows the configuration of a four-sub-carrier hard decision decoder.

Fig 12 shows the configuration of a
5 four-sub-carrier soft decision decoder.

Fig. 13 shows the serial connection between a soft decision decoder and an error correction decoder.

Fig. 14 shows the configuration of a four-sub-carrier receiving error detector.

10 Fig. 15 shows the parallel connection between a hard decision decoder and a receiving error detector.

Fig. 16 shows one configuration of a four-sub-carrier hard decision decoder.

15 Fig. 17 shows one configuration of a four-sub-carrier soft decision decoder.

Fig. 18 shows one serial connection between a soft decision decoder and an error correction decoder.

Fig. 19 shows one configuration of a four-sub-carrier receiving error detector.

20 Fig. 20 shows one parallel connection between a hard decision decoder and an error correction decoder.

Fig. 21 shows a multi-carrier modulation system.

Fig. 22 shows orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing.

25 For the explanation of the codes, see an attached

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paper.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

5 The present invention adopts a peak power suppression encoding system for preventing a signal point pattern, the peak power of which is increased by an encoding process, from occurring in order to suppress the peak power of a transmitting signal. The principle of the present invention is described with reference
10 to Fig. 1.

The present invention provides a transmitter in a multi-carrier transmission system for conducting communications using a QPSK modulation system in which a transmission band is divided into a plurality of
15 sub-carriers and, for example, each carrier is mapped by a complex signal point expressed by two bits. The system comprises an encoding unit converting transmission data information of the number of bits less than $2n$ bits, which are data for expressing n
20 sub-carriers, into a signal point pattern with the small peak power of a transmitting signal of signal point patterns expressed by the $2n$ bits, the encoding unit further comprising a sub-carrier generation unit generating both a sub-carrier, in which the signal point
25 pattern with the small peak power is divided into two

orthogonal groups in four quadrants of an IQ plane and the signal point of a part of a sub-carrier has a prescribed correlation with the signal point of other sub-carriers, a sub-carrier generation unit 11
5 generating the transmission signals of n sub-carriers using the output of the encoding unit, and a mapping unit 10 generating the transmitting signals of n sub-carriers using the output of the encoding unit. For example, since when QPSK-modulated signals are
10 transmitted by a four-sub-carrier multi-carrier system, each of the sub-carrier mapping signals of the four sub-carrier transmitting signals is expressed by 8 bits, there are 285 signal point patterns. However, information bits corresponding to the 8-bit sub-carrier
15 mapping signal are designated as 7 bits, and a prescribed correlation between signal points is detected such that 128 signal point patterns can be selected from 256 8-bit signal point patterns to suppress the peak power to 2dB, which is the theoretical marginal value of peak power
20 in the case of an encoding rate of $7/8$, while implementing a high encoding rate of $7/8$, and the relation between the 128 signal point patterns and 7-bit information is provided by a logical circuit or a ROM. However, since it can be considered that the two
25 orthogonal groups are a group, including the first and

third quadrants of the IQ plane and a group, including the second and fourth quadrants, the present invention is also applicable to a modulation system other than QPSK.

5 Since a QPSK modulation system is adopted in most currently commercialized wireless systems, such as that for a personal digital cellular (PDC) for a digital portable/car telephone, a PHS, a W-CDMA and the like, it is useful for its commercialization to simplify a
10 circuit by adopting this modulation method. First, assuming a QPSK modulation system, the peak power suppression method in the preferred embodiment of the present invention is described in detail with reference to the drawings.

15 Fig. 2 shows the mapping of signal points expressed by a complex signal obtained by QPSK-modulating a two-bit digital signal. As shown in Fig. 2, the QPSK-modulated signal points are mapped by a complex signal expressed by two bits (s_x, s_y). The
20 signal points are grouped into two types of signal points G_1 and G_2 . The signal points differ in phase by 180 degrees within the same group and such a group is called a "signal point group" hereinafter. Mapping signals shown in Fig. 2 differ in phase by 180 degrees due to bit inversion
25 ($\overline{s_x}, \overline{s_y}$). In this grouping, generally G_1 is in the first

and third quadrants, and G_2 is in the second and fourth quadrants, and this grouping may be applied to all modulation systems.

The signal points of four sub-carriers, #1, #2,
 5 #3 and #4 are S_1 , S_2 , S_3 and S_4 , respectively. The
 respective signal points are mapped at a QPSK signal
 point according to the following equations.

$$S_1 = (S_{1x}, S_{1y})$$

$$S_2 = (S_{2x}, S_{2y})$$

$$10 \quad S_3 = (S_{3x}, S_{3y})$$

$$S_4 = (S_{4x}, S_{4y})$$

By determining a signal point string $S = \{S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4\}$,
 that is, a signal point pattern in such a way that the
 phase relation among signal points S_1, S_2, S_3 and S_4 can
 15 meet the conditions shown in Fig. 3, the peak power can
 be suppressed as described later. In this example, \bar{S}_i
 ($i=1\sim 4$) means that a specific signal point differs in
 phase by 180 degrees from signal point S_i , that is, the
 mapping signals have a bit inversion relation with each
 20 other.

As shown in Fig. 3, the following equations hold
 true.

(1) In case S_1 and S_2 belong to the same group

$$(a) \quad S_3 = \bar{S}_1$$

25 S_4 : an arbitrary signal point

(b) $S_3 = S_1$

$$S_4 = \overline{S_2}$$

(c) In case S_3 belongs to a different group from S_1 and S_2

5 $S_4 = S_2$

(d) In case S_3 belongs to a different group from S_1 and S_2

(i) In case $S_1 = S_2$

$$S_4 = \overline{S_3}$$

10 (ii) In case $S_1 = \overline{S_2}$

$$S_4 = S_3$$

(2) In case each of S_1 and S_2 belongs to a different group

(a) $S_3 = S_1$

15 S_4 : an arbitrary signal point

(b) $S_3 = \overline{S_1}$

$$S_4 = S_2$$

(c) In case S_3 belongs to the same signal point group as S_2

20 $S_4 = \overline{S_2}$

(d) $S_3 = S_2$

$$S_4 = S_1$$

(e) $S_3 = \overline{S_2}$

$$S_4 = \overline{S_1}$$

25 Figs. 4 and 5 show specific examples of a signal

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point meeting the phase conditions shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 4 shows signal points meeting the phase condition (1) shown in Fig. 3. In this example, since S_1 and S_2 belong to the same signal point group, these signal points belong to group G_1 shown in Fig. 2. If signal point S_1 is located at a point $(0, 0)$ shown in Fig. 2, the signal points met by the phase condition (1) (a) shown in Fig. 3 and described above are shown in Fig. 4(1)-(a). In Fig. 4(1)-(a), signal points S_1 and S_2 belong to the same signal group G_1 , signal point S_3 is the bit inversion result of signal point S_1 , S_4 is an arbitrary signal point, which can be located at any position marked x.

Fig. 4(1)-(b) shows signal points met by the phase condition (1) (b) shown in Fig. 3 and described above. In this example, S_1 and S_2 belong to the same signal point group, S_3 is the same signal point as S_2 , and S_4 is the bit inversion result of signal point S_2 . If S_1 and S_2 are determined, S_3 and S_4 are uniquely determined.

Fig. 4(1)-(c) shows signal points met by the phase condition (1) (c). In Fig. 4(1)-(c), although S_1 and S_2 belong to the same signal point group, S_2 is the bit inversion result of signal point S_1 , S_3 is a signal point $(1, 0)$ shown in Fig. 2, which belongs to a different signal point group than that of S_1 and S_2 , and S_4 is the same signal point as S_2 . If S_1 and S_2 are located as shown

in Fig. 4(1)-(c), there is also a signal point pattern in which S_3 is located at a point $(0, 1)$.

Fig. 4(1)-(d)-(i) shows a signal point pattern met by the phase condition (1)(d)(i). S_1 and S_2 , belongs to
 5 signal point group G_1 , and $S_1 = S_2$, S_3 belongs to a different signal point group G_2 than that of S_1 and S_2 , and S_4 is the bit inversion result of S_3 . Fig. 4(1)-(d)-(ii) shows a signal point pattern met by the phase condition (1)(d)(ii). Although S_1 and S_2 belong
 10 to the same signal point group G_1 , S_2 is the bit inversion result of signal point S_1 , and S_3 belongs to a different signal point group G_2 than that of S_1 and S_2 , and $S_4 = S_3$. In this example, similarly (c), although only the point $(1, 0)$ shown in Fig. 2 is shown for S_3 , there is
 15 also a signal point pattern corresponding to a point $(0, 1)$ shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 shows other signal point patterns met by the phase condition (2) shown in Fig. 3 and described above. In this example, each of S_1 and S_2 belongs to a
 20 different signal point group. In Fig. 5(2)-(a), signal point S_4 can be located at any position marked \times as in Fig. 4(1)(a). Although in Fig. 5(2)-(c), S_3 is the same signal point as S_2 , S_3 can also be the same as S_1 . In that sense, if S_1 and S_2 as located as shown in Fig. 5(2)-(c),
 25 there is one more signal point pattern. However, in Figs.

5(2)-(b), (2)-(d) and (2)-(e), there is only one signal point pattern if S_1 and S_2 are located as shown in Figs. 5(2)-(b), (2)-(d) and (2)-(e), respectively.

Fig. 6 shows the number of signal point patterns meeting the phase conditions shown in Fig. 3. The number of all the signal point patterns obtained when signal points S_1 and S_2 are determined based on the phase conditions shown in Fig. 3 is 18, as shown in Fig. 6. It is detected that the respective number of the patterns of the two remaining sub-carriers S_3 and S_4 used to suppress the peak power by the phase relation of two sub-carriers S_1 and S_2 (depending on whether S_1 and S_2 belong to the same signal point group) is nine. In the case of the condition (1)-(d), either condition (i) or (ii) is selected by the relation between S_1 and S_2 .

In this way, in the preferred embodiment, as shown in Fig. 3, signal point patterns are classified by the conditions (1) and (2), that is, the phase relation between S_1 and S_2 , in other words, signal point groups. Then, signal points S_3 and S_4 are dependently determined based on the phase relation between S_1 and S_2 and the peak power is suppressed.

Fig. 3 shows that the number of input information bits to an encoder is, corresponding to the number of code bits 8 (output number of bits), 7.17 bits in total,

which is obtained by adding $\log_2 9 \sim 3.17$ bits to select four bits of arbitrary mapping signals composing two sub-carriers S_1 and S_2 , and mapping signals remaining two sub-carriers S_3 and S_4 from nine pattern signal points.

- 5 Thus, the theoretical encoding rate (R^*) of the encoding method of this preferred embodiment becomes approximately $7.17/8$. By omitting the figures to the right of the decimal point in order to implement the encoder of the preferred embodiment by a logical circuit,
- 10 the encoding rate $R=7/8$ of this preferred embodiment can be obtained.

Specifically, by selecting an arbitrary eight patterns from all nine-candidate patterns, peak power suppression encoding can be performed. In this preferred

15 embodiment, patterns met by condition (b) are eliminated from the phase conditions (1) and (2) shown in Fig. 3, and the respective eight patterns of the phase conditions (1) and (2) are encoded. If the number of sub-carriers is $N=4m$ ($m \geq 2$), the peak power is suppressed

20 by dividing all the sub-carriers into groups of four sub-carriers and encoding the sub-carriers in units of four sub-carriers in parallel. Fig. 7 shows the simulation result for peak power suppression amounts for each number of sub-carriers. As a result of the

25 computer simulation, it is shown that peak power is

suppressed to approximately 2dB.

As described above, in this preferred embodiment, each sub-carrier is QPSK-modulated in a multi-carrier modulation system and if the number of sub-carriers N meets the condition $N=4m$, the peak power is suppressed while the sub-carriers are being encoded at the encoding rate $R=7/8$ in units of four sub-carriers. By encoding the sub-carriers at the encoding rate $R=7/8$ using a multi-carrier symbol time, that is, the transmitting/receiving time of $4m$ sub-carriers, as a unit, the peak power can be suppressed to 2dB. This peak power suppression amount is a theoretical marginal value at a given encoding rate $R=7/8$ (QPSK modulation, four carriers). The encoder of this preferred embodiment can be implemented by a fairly simple logical circuit as described later, and can correspond to a high-speed operation.

As described with reference to Fig. 6, each of the total number of patterns corresponding to phase conditions (1) and (2) is eight, except condition (b). This is the number of patterns in the case where, of the signal points, both points S_1 and S_2 are fixed, and the total number of patterns available as signal point patterns depending on the positions of points S_1 and S_2 is 128. Specifically, since seven bits are used in total

- three bits in order to generate eight patterns and four bits for both S_1 and S_2 .

In this preferred embodiment, of 256 patterns essentially expressed by eight bits, 128 patterns, which
 5 is half of the patterns, are selected as signal point patterns, the peak power of which does not become large. In other words, since the number of the patterns is reduced to 128, the peak power becomes small. The condition shown in Fig. 3 is this phase condition, and
 10 as shown in Fig. 7, the peak power is suppressed to 2dB by selecting only signal point patterns meeting this phase condition.

Fig. 8 shows the basic configuration of an encoder provided on the transmitter side in a four-sub-carrier
 15 transmission system. The encoder shown in Fig. 8 outputs the transmitting signals of four sub-carriers #1~#4 against the input of 7-bit information bits $IN_0 \sim IN_6$. The encoder comprises a QPSK mapping unit 10, a two-sub-carrier generation unit 11 and an encoding unit
 20 9 enclosed by dotted lines.

The QPSK mapping unit 10 receives the inputs S_{1x} , S_{1y} , S_{2x} , S_{2y} , S_{3x} , S_{3y} , S_{4x} and S_{4y} of an 8-bit sub-carrier mapping signal as information bits and outputs the transmitting signals of four-sub-carriers #1~#4. Of the
 25 seven information bits, four bits $IN_0 \sim IN_3$ are input as

the mapping signals, $S_1=\{S_{1x}, S_{1y}\}$ and $S_2=\{S_{2x}, S_{2y}\}$ of sub-carriers #1 and #2 without any processing and the output of the two-sub-carrier generation unit 11 is provided as the mapping signals of sub-carriers #3 and #4. The QPSK mapping unit 10 maps a mapping signal corresponding to each sub-carrier into the complex signal point (I-channel/Q-channel) described with reference to Fig. 2 and outputs the signal as the transmitting signal of each sub-carrier.

10 The two-sub-carrier generation unit 11 selects eight types of signal point patterns that are predetermined by the phase conditions shown in Fig. 3 in relation to the position relation between sub-carriers #1 and #2, based on four bits of signals IN0~IN3, which are used as the mapping signals of sub-carriers #1 and #2, that is, mapping signals using three signal bits IN4~IN6 of information bits, and outputs the signals as the mapping signals of sub-carriers #3 and #4. Specifically, although the two-sub-carrier generation unit 11 outputs four bits of mapping signals S_{3x} , S_{3y} , S_{4x} and S_{4y} of sub-carriers #3 and #4, the patterns are limited to eight types as seen from Fig. 3 if S_1 and S_2 are determined. Therefore, the patterns correspond to three bits. Then, the encoding unit 9 inputs mapping signals of 128 patterns

expressed by seven bits consisting of three bits and four bits of mapping signals of sub-carriers #1 and #2 to the QPSK mapping unit 10. These mapping signals of 128 patterns are selected based on the phase conditions shown in Fig. 3 so as to suppress the peak power when data are output.

Therefore, the present invention divides QPSK signal points into two orthogonal groups and focuses attention on each of the relations between the groups to which four carrier signal points belong.

The two sub-carrier generation unit 11 can be configured by storing the correspondence between an input signal of information bits IN0~IN6 and an output signal of the mapping signals S_{3x} , S_{3y} , S_{4x} and S_{4y} of sub-carriers #3 and #4 in a memory, such as a RAM, that is, a look-up table. However, in a high-speed and broadband wireless transmission system, there are problems in both speed and scale. If the two-sub-carrier generation unit 11 could be configured using only simple logical circuits, the speed and scale problems can be solved.

This preferred embodiment, for example, selects signal points S_3 and S_4 from eight types of signal point patterns excluding signal point patterns of condition (b) of the conditions shown in Fig. 3, as signals which

are dependent on S_1 and S_2 . Fig. 9 shows one such circuit configuration of the two-sub-carrier generation unit 11. Thus, the two-sub-carrier generation unit 11 can be configured using simple and small-scaled logical circuits.

As shown in Fig. 9, AND 16₁, 16₂, 16₅ and 16₆ are circuits used to realize condition (1)(a) shown in Fig. 3. IN0 and IN1 provide signal point S_1 , and IN2 and IN3 provide signal point S_2 . Signal points S_1 and S_2 belong to the same signal point group G_1 , the signal point is, for example, assumed to be (0, 0). Since AND 16₁ and 16₂ output 1 when IN6 is 0, the output of OR 19₁ and 19₂ become (1, 1). Therefore, signal point S_3 becomes $S_3 = \overline{S_1}$. Thus, sub-carrier #3 becomes the bit inversion of sub-carrier #1. Furthermore, since outputs 1 and 0 corresponding to signals 1 and 0 are generated from AND 16₅ and 16₆ when IN6=0, respectively, the outputs of OR 19₃ and 19₄ can take one arbitrary pattern from (0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0) and (1, 1). Thus, since signal point S can take an arbitrary signal point, sub-carrier #4 can take an arbitrary signal point.

Similarly, AND 16₃, 16₄, 16₇ and 16₈ are used to realize phase condition (1)(c) shown in Fig. 3. Similarly, AND 16₃, 16₄, 16₉ and 16₁₀ are used to realize phase condition (1)(d)(i), and AND 16₃, 16₄, 16₁₁ and 16₁₂

are used to realize phase condition (1) (d) (ii).

For phase condition (2) shown in Fig. 3, AND 16₅, 16₆, 16₁₃ and 16₁₄ are used to realize phase condition (2) (a); and AND 16₁₅ and 16₁₆, and the middle inputs of OR17₇ and 17₈ are used to realize phase condition (2) (c). AND 16₁₅ and 16₁₆, and the lower inputs of OR17₇ and 17₈ are used to realize phase conditions (2) (d) and (2) (e).

Next, the circuit shown in Fig. 9 is described in detail using an input of information bits and an output of sub-carrier signals as examples.

IN0~IN6 are information bits and are provided from an information source. When information bits IN4, IN5 and IN6 are 0, 0 and 0, respectively, condition (1) (a) shown in Fig. 3 is selected. When a specific 7-bit information pattern 0011000 is inputted, both 8 bits 00111100 as the component bits of S₁, S₂, S₃ and S₄, and a sub-carrier signal are outputted. Since the higher-order four bits (IN0~IN3) of information bits 0011000 pass through the encoding unit, as shown in Fig. 8, 0011 is provided to S_{1x}, S_{1y}, S_{2x} and S_{2y}. Furthermore, since IN6=0, the outputs of AND 16₁, 16₂, 16₃ and 16₄ are 1, 1, 0 and 0, respectively. Therefore, the outputs of OR circuits 17₁ and 17₂ become 1 and 1, respectively. Furthermore, since IN0, IN1, IN2 and IN3 are 0, 0, 1 and 1, respectively, the output of EXOR 13 becomes 0.

Therefore, the outputs of OR 17_1 and 17_2 are passed as the outputs of AND 18_1 and 18_2 , respectively, without any processing. The outputs of OR 19_1 and 19_2 become 1 and 1, respectively. Thus, S_3 is provided for inversion, and
 5 S_{3x} and S_{3y} become 1 and 1, respectively. In this case, since IN_4 and IN_5 are 0 and 0, respectively, the outputs of AND 16_5 and 16_6 become 0 and 0, respectively. Since IN_6 is 0, the outputs of AND 16_7 , 16_8 , 16_9 , 16_{10} , 16_{11} and 16_{12} all become 0. Therefore, the outputs of OR 17_3 and
 10 17_4 become 0 and 0, respectively. Accordingly, the outputs of AND 18_3 and 18_4 are 0 and 0, respectively.

Then, since IN_4 is 0, the output of AND 16_5 is 0. Since IN_5 is 0, the output of AND 16_{17} is also 0. Since IN_0 and IN_4 are 0 and 0, respectively, the output of
 15 EXOR 14_1 is 0. Accordingly, the output of AND 16_{19} is 0. Since the inputs of OR 17_7 are 0, 0 and 0, the output is 0. Therefore, the output of AND 18_7 is 0. Accordingly, the output S_{4x} of OR 19_3 becomes 0.

Furthermore, since IN_5 is 0, the output of AND 16_6
 20 is 0. Since IN_6 is 0, the output of AND 16_{10} is 0. Since IN_6 is 0, the output of AND 16_{12} is 0. Therefore, the output of OR 17_4 is 0. Since the outputs of AND 18_4 and OR 19_4 both are 0, S_{4y} is also 0. Thus, both IN_4 and IN_5 are provided to S_{4x} and S_{4y} as through bits without any
 25 processing. Therefore, these become 0 and 0,

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respectively, and an output signal becomes 00111100. This corresponds to condition (1)(a) shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 10 shows the comprehensive configuration of the encoder in the case where the total number of sub-carriers is $N=4m$ ($m \geq 2$). Each of encoding units $21_1 \sim 21_m$ has the same configuration as that of Fig. 8 or 9. As shown in Fig. 10, in an encoder corresponding to $4m$ -sub-carriers, the encoders shown in Fig. 8 are used in parallel and independently, and by providing each encoder with seven information bits, transmitting signals corresponding to the respective four sub-carriers are obtained.

Fig. 11 shows the basic configuration of a hard-decision decoder provided on the receiving side of a multi-carrier transmission system using four sub-carriers. The hard-decision decoder compares the 8-bit signal point patterns obtained from receiving signal data described above, with all 128 8-bit signal points that might be transmitted from the transmitting side, and when the 0s and 1s forming the content of the 8 bits are matched for each comparison, the decoder transmits a 7-bit signal pattern that generates the 8 bits as decoding data. The hard-decision decoder receives the receiving data signal as a signal of either 1 or 0 by setting a threshold value and inputs the signal

to a demapping unit 23.

The hard-decision decoder shown in Fig. 11 comprises a demapping unit 23 demapping receiving data signals corresponding to sub-carriers #1~#4 and converting the signals into the 8-bit signal point patterns described above, that is, demapping signals r_{1x} , r_{1y} , r_{2x} , r_{2y} , r_{3x} , r_{3y} , r_{4x} and r_{4y} by excluding the MSB, a timing control unit 24 outputting information bits that might be transmitted from the transmitting side, that is, all patterns of the 7-bit $IN0 \sim IN6$ (128 7-bit patterns) as a data control signal, an encoding unit 25 encoding the output of the timing control unit 24, generating 8-bit mapping signals s_{1x} , s_{1y} , s_{2x} , s_{2y} , s_{3x} , s_{3y} , s_{4x} and s_{4y} from 7-bit input information and outputting the signals, and having the same configuration as that of the encoding unit 9 shown in Fig. 8, a signal comparison unit 26 comparing the demapping signals with the mapping signals as the output of the encoding unit, that is, all the 128 signal point patterns described above and outputting a memory timing signal when the contents of the 8 bits are matched, and a data memory unit 27 storing the content of information bits $IN0 \sim IN6$ as a data control signal outputted by the timing control unit 24 when a memory timing signal is outputted and outputting the stored content as a 7-bit

decoding data signal when a multi-carrier symbol timing signal corresponding to the transmission time of four sub-carriers are inputted.

To this hard-decision decoder, both receiving data signals for four sub-carriers and a multi-carrier symbol timing signal that varies at multi-carrier symbol intervals are inputted and a decoding data signal is outputted. A receiving data signal is a complex signal (I-channel/Q-channel).

The demapping unit 23 converts the receiving data signal of each sub-carrier into a signal point pattern, that is, it performs an operation that is the reverse of the operation of the mapping unit and outputs the demapping signal of each sub-carrier. The timing control unit 24 outputs a total of 128 patterns of a signal corresponding to the 7-bit information data as a data control signal at intervals of one section of a multi-carrier symbol timing signal, and the encoding unit generates the 128 8-bit signal point patterns described above, that is, mapping signals, from the 7 bits.

When as a comparison result of the signal comparison unit 26, the demapping signals and mapping signals are matched and a memory timing signal to be outputted is activated, the data memory unit 27 stores

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a data control signal in an internal memory,
synchronizes the signal with the multi-carrier symbol
timing signal and outputs the stored data as a decoding
data signal. Since the data stored in the internal memory
5 is cleared at multi-carrier symbol intervals, the data
control signal in the case where the demapping signals
and mapping signals are matched is outputted as decoding
signal data. However, if no pair of a demapping signal
and a mapping signal as one of 128 patterns is matched,
10 the memory timing signal is not activated and the data
are not stored. In that case, the decoding data signal
is a value in the case where the memory is cleared.

A hard-decision decoder in the case where the
total number of sub-carriers is $N=4m$ ($m \geq 2$) can be
15 configured by using the decoders shown in Fig. 11 in
parallel and independently, as shown in Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 shows the basic configuration of a
soft-decision decoder provided on the receiving side
of a multi-carrier transmission system using four
20 sub-carriers. Although the hard-decision decoder
performs the 0/1 comparison of each bit of a signal
pattern, the soft-decision decoder calculates the code
distance between a receiving data signal and a
transmitting signal that might be transmitted from the
25 transmitting side taking into consideration the noise

of the receiving data signal and the like and outputting a data control signal corresponding to a transmitting signal with the shortest code distance as a decoding signal.

5 The soft-decision decoder comprises a timing control unit 30 corresponding to each of the timing control unit 24 and encoding unit 25 shown in Fig. 11, an encoding unit 31, a mapping unit 32 having the same configuration as that of the QPSK mapping unit 10 shown
10 in Fig. 8, a code distance calculation unit 33, a code distance memory unit 35 storing a code distance outputted by the code distance calculation unit 33, a minimum distance memory unit 36 storing the minimum value of the code distance, a code distance comparison
15 unit 34 comparing the code distance signal outputted by the code distance calculation unit 33 with the minimum distance signal stored in the minimum distance memory unit 36 and a data memory unit 37 outputting a decoding data signal. To the soft-decision decoder,
20 receiving data signals for four sub-carriers, a multi-carrier symbol timing signal varying at multi-carrier symbol intervals and a distance access signal provided from an error correction unit, which is described later, and the like, are inputted, and both
25 a decoding signal and a distance data signal are

outputted. The receiving signal is a complex signal (I-channel/Q-channel).

The timing control unit 30 generates a 7-bit data control signal, that is, a total of 128 patterns, as is shown in Fig. 11. The timing control unit 30 also outputs the transition point of the data control signal as a timing control signal.

The encoding unit 31 generates mapping signals corresponding to four sub-carriers #1~#4, that is, 128 8-bit signal point patterns from the 7-bit data control signal, as shown in Fig. 8. The mapping unit 32 generates transmitting signals in possibility of transmission from the transmitting side in relation to four sub-carriers, as shown in Fig. 8, and outputs the signals to the code distance calculation unit 33.

The code distance calculation unit 33 calculates the code distance between an I-channel and a Q-channel in possibility of transmission from the transmitting side, and outputs the distance to both the code distance comparison unit 34 and code distance memory unit 35 as a code distance signal. This calculation is conducted in synchronization with a timing control signal outputted by the timing control unit 30.

Similarly, the code distance comparison unit 34 compares the code distance signal outputted in

synchronization with the timing control signal by the code distance calculation unit 33 with the minimum distance signal already stored in the minimum distance memory unit 36, and activates the memory timing signal
5 if the code distance signal outputted from the code distance calculation unit 33 is smaller than the minimum distance signal.

If the memory timing signal outputted by the code distance comparison unit 34 is activated, the minimum
10 distance memory unit 36 transmits a code distance signal outputted by the code distance calculation unit 33 of an internal memory and outputs the data stored in the internal memory as a minimum distance signal to the code distance comparison unit 34 in synchronization with the
15 timing control signal. Since the data stored in the internal memory is cleared when the multi-carrier symbol timing signal is inputted, the minimum code distance is stored in the internal memory at intervals of a multi-carrier symbol time.

20 The data memory unit 37 stores a corresponding data control signal in the internal memory when the memory timing signal is activated, and outputs the data corresponding to the minimum distance stored in the internal memory as a decoding data signal when the
25 multi-carrier symbol timing signal is inputted. Since

the data stored in the internal memory is cleared when the multi-carrier symbol timing signal is inputted, a data control signal corresponding to the minimum code distance, that is, a decoding data signal is stored in the internal memory at intervals of a multi-carrier symbol time.

Every time the code distance calculation unit 33 outputs a code distance signal, the code distance memory unit 35 stores the code distance signal when the data control signal is outputted by the timing control unit 30. Then, the code distance calculation unit 33 outputs the stored code distance signal as a distance data signal. When a 7-bit distance access signal is inputted from, for example, an error correction unit, which is described later.

One operation of the code distance calculation unit 33 described above is described in detail below. For example, attention is focused on the I-channel of a receiving data signal. In this case, since the difference between actual values, 0.2, 0.6, 0.2 and 0.6, and 0, 0, 0 and 0 is 1.6, and the difference between actual values, 0.2, 0.6, 0.2 and 0.6, and 1, 1, 1 and 1 is 2.4, the code distance comparison unit 34 calculates the code distances to be 1.6 and 2.4, respectively. The code distances to be 1.6 and 2.4 are compared, 1.6 is

stored in the minimum distance memory unit 36, 0, 0,
 0 and 0 are provided if 1.6 is a minimum when 1.6 is
 compared with the output of another mapping unit 32,
 and the 7-bit control signal of the timing control unit
 5 30 is stored in the data memory unit 37 as a decoding
 data signal.

A soft-decision decoder in the case where the
 total number of sub-carriers is $N=4m$ ($m \geq 2$) can be
 configured by using the decoders shown in Fig. 12 in
 10 parallel and independently, as in shown in Fig. 10.

Since according to the encoding method of this
 preferred embodiment the minimum code distance is d_{\min}
 $= d$ and there is no expansion of a code distance, the
 coding method has no error correction capability. If
 15 another error correction method is used together (in
 the case of connected codes), the encoding method
 corresponds to internal coding. Therefore, in order to
 display the capability of external coding 100 percent,
 for example, a distance data signal, which is a
 20 soft-decision information, must be provided to an error
 correction decoder provided in the later stage of a
 receiver as probability information. This is because
 when signals are wrongly decoded by this encoding method,
 the error correction of external coding by connected
 25 codes becomes inaccurate. Specifically, code distances

corresponding to all of the 128 signal patterns generated at multi-carrier symbol intervals must be calculated and be inputted to the error correction decoder as probability information.

5 Fig. 13 shows the connection configuration between a soft-decision decoder and an error correction decoder in such a case. In Fig. 13, an error correction decoder 39 is connected to the code distance memory unit 35 of the soft-decision decoder shown in Fig. 12 and
10 outputs a 7-bit distance access signal to the code distance memory unit 35. The code distance memory unit 35 outputs a stored code distance signal to the error correction decoder 39 as a distance data signal. The error correction decoder 39 can access distance data ,
15 which is probability information for error correction decoding by outputting a distance access signal at multi-carrier symbol intervals.

 According to the encoding method of this preferred embodiment, as described earlier, encoding is performed
20 at an encoding rate of $R=7/8$. Therefore, 8 bits of data are transmitted using four sub-carriers. Specifically, the information bits of a code word with a bit width of 256 patterns are 7 bits, that is, 128 patterns. Therefore, in the case of hard-decision decoding, there
25 is sometimes no pattern which coincides with the code

word on the receiving side due to the influence of fading or a thermal noise. Specifically, it is sometimes judged that receiving data are in 128 patterns other than the code word. The probability of this is $1/2$. In this case, 5 as described earlier, the memory timing signal shown in Fig. 11 is not activated.

In this preferred embodiment, although the probability is $1/2$, it is judged whether eight types of signal patterns, except for signal patterns meeting 10 condition (b) of the conditions shown in Fig. 3, include a demapping signal. If the demapping signal is not included, a receiving error can be detected by activating an error detection signal. By thus detecting a receiving error and using the receiving error as 15 receiving error information, for example, in the higher-order layer in the latter stage of a decoder, an error correction/detection unit or the like, an overall throughput or a receiving characteristic can be improved.

20 Fig. 14 shows the basic configuration of a receiving error detector provided on the receiver side of a multi-carrier transmission system using four sub-carriers. In Fig. 14, to the receiving error detector, receiving data for four sub-carriers, that 25 is, a complex signal (I-channel/Q-channel), are

inputted, and an error detection signal is outputted.

In Fig. 14, a demapping unit 41 converts a receiving data signal into a signal pattern and outputs a demapping signal corresponding to the signal pattern,
 5 like the demapping unit 23 of the hard-decision decoder shown in Fig. 11.

An error detection unit 42 judges whether 128 types of signal patterns, except for those that meet condition (b) shown in Fig. 3, include a demapping signal.
 10 If the demapping signal is not included, the error detection unit 42 activates an error detection signal. Since there is no need to perform a matching process for all the patterns, there is almost no delay in time and the delay time is only several gates.

15 A receiving error detector in the case where the total number of sub-carriers is $N = 4m$ ($m \geq 2$) can be configured by using the detectors shown in Fig. 14 in parallel and independently. Alternatively, the logical product of the detection signals of a plurality of
 20 receiving error detectors can also be used as one error detection signal.

In Fig. 14, an error detection signal can be outputted from the error detection unit 42, with little delay time, after a receiving data signal is inputted.
 25 However, for example, in the hard decision decoder shown

in Fig. 11, since a matching process with all the signal patterns that might be transmitted from the transmitting side is required, one multi-carrier symbol cycle is needed to output a decoding data signal. If a
5 hard-decision decoder and a receiving error detector are used in parallel and independently, the hard-decision decoder does not terminate the decoding process even if the receiving error detector judges that the receiving signal is erroneously received.

10 Fig. 15 shows the parallel connection configuration between a hard-decision decoder and a receiving error detector, designed to continue the hard-decision decoding operation. The configuration of the hard-decision decoder shown in Fig. 15 is almost
15 the same as that of the hard-decision detector shown in Fig. 11 except that a clock control unit 43 is added.

In Fig. 15, the hard-decision decoder and receiving error detector are connected in parallel. To the error detection unit 42 of the receiving error
20 detector, the output of the demapping unit 23 of the hard-decision decoder is provided. When the error detection unit 42 outputs an error detection signal to the clock control unit 43, the clock control unit 43 exercises clock control so as to stop the operation of
25 the hard-decision decoder. If an error detection signal

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is not activated, specifically, if an error is not detected, the clock control unit 43 exercises clock control so as to activate both the timing control unit 24 and data memory unit 27 of the hard-decision decoder.

5 The specific configurations of both the hard-decision and soft-decision decoders of this preferred embodiment are described in detail with reference to Figs. 16 through 20. Fig. 16 shows the detailed configuration of a hard-decision decoder using
10 four sub-carriers. Compared with that of the hard-decision decoder shown in Fig. 11, the timing control unit 24 comprises a counter 45. A 7-bit data control signal outputted by the counter 45 is incremented every time a master clock is inputted, and
15 the counter 45 is cleared when a multi-carrier symbol timing signal is inputted.

A signal comparison unit 26 comprises eight EXOR gates 46_1 - 46_8 and an OR gate 47. To each of the EXOR gates, respective bits corresponding to both a demapping signal
20 outputted by a demapping unit 23 and a mapping signal outputted by an encoding unit 25 are inputted. When the values of the two input bits are different, the output becomes H. The inversion of the output of the OR gate 47 makes a memory timing signal H only when all the
25 outputs of the eight EXOR gates 46_1 - 46_8 are L,

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specifically, when all the two inputs of each EXOR gate are matched and the signal is outputted as the enable signal of a flip-flop (FF) 48 of the data memory unit 27. If this enable signal becomes H, a 7-bit data control
 5 signal is stored in the FF 48 as data when a master clock is inputted. The stored content of the FF 48 is outputted as a decoding signal when a multi-carrier symbol timing signal is inputted, and simultaneously the content is cleared.

10 Fig. 17 shows the detailed configuration of a soft-decision decoder in the case where four sub-carriers are used. Compared with that of the soft-decision decoder shown in Fig. 12, first, a timing control unit 30 comprises a counter 50, an FF 51 and
 15 an EXOR gate 52. The operation of the counter 50 is the same as that of the counter 45 shown in Fig. 16. To the flip-flop 51, both the lowest-order bit LSB of a 7-bit data control signal outputted by the counter 50 and a master clock are inputted. To the EXOR gate 52, both
 20 this LSB and the output of the FF 51 are provided. At a specific time, the contents of both the LSB of a data control signal at the time and an LSB one clock before the current LSB are provided to the EXOR gate 52. The EXOR gate 52 outputs a timing control signal when an
 25 LSB changes, specifically, the data control signal

changes. Then, this timing control signal is provided to the enable terminal of the flip-flop 57 in a code distance comparison unit 34.

A code distance calculation unit 33 calculates the
 5 difference between the respective factor data of the I-channel and Q-channel corresponding to each of the sub-carriers #1-#4 of a receiving data signal and the respective factor data of the I-channel and Q-channel corresponding to each of the sub-carriers #1-#4 that
 10 are outputted by a mapping unit 32 and that might be transmitted from the transmitting side, a summer 56 totals the results, and the result is outputted to the code distance comparison unit 34 as a code distance signal.

15 The code distance comparison unit 34 comprises a flip-flop 57 and a comparator 58. The FF 57 stores both a timing control signal outputted by the timing control unit 30 and a code distance signal outputted by the code distance calculation unit 33 when a master clock signal
 20 is inputted.

The stored code distance signal is compared with a minimum distance signal already stored in the flip-flop 59 of a minimum distance memory unit 36. If the value of the code distance signal stored in an FF
 25 57 is smaller than that of the minimum distance signal,

a memory timing signal outputted by the comparator 58 becomes H, and this signal is provided as the enable signal of both the FF 59 in the minimum distance memory unit 36 and the FF 60 in the data memory unit 37.

5 Then, the code distance signal outputted by the FF 57 of the code distance comparison unit 34 is stored in the FF 59 of the minimum distance memory unit 36 by a clock just after a clock when the memory timing signal was H, and simultaneously the data control signal
10 outputted by the timing control unit 30 is stored in the FF 60 of the data memory unit 37.

When a multi-carrier symbol timing signal is inputted, the counter 50 of the timing control unit 30, the FF 59 of the minimum distance memory unit 36 and
15 the FF 60 of the data memory unit 37 are all cleared, and the stored content of the FF 60 in the data memory unit 37 is outputted as a decoding data signal.

The dual port RAM 61 of the code distance memory unit 35 stores the output of the FF 57 in the code
20 distance comparison unit 34 in a load address (AL) that the timing control signal outputted by the timing control unit 30 indicates, as load data. Access to the stored data is described with reference to Fig. 18.

Fig. 18 shows one detailed connection between the
25 soft-decision decoder and error correction decoder,

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which are described with reference to Fig. 13. In Fig. 18, an error correction decoder 39 is connected to the code distance memory unit 39 shown in Fig. 17. The code distance memory unit 39 provides the same signal as the data control signal outputted by the timing control unit 30 as a distance access signal, that is, a read address (AR), receives data designated by the address as read data (DR), that is, a distance data signal, and outputs a correction data signal after correcting an error, if required.

Fig. 19 shows the detailed configuration of the receiving error detection decoder described with reference to Fig. 14.

For example, it is assumed that data S_1 , S_2 , S_3 and S_4 corresponding to the receiving phase data $\pi/4$, $\pi/4$, $\pi/4$ and $\pi/4$ of QPSK modulation are received. Since the peak power value is high, these are data that should not be transmitted from the transmitting side. In this case, since the outputs r_{1x} , r_{1y} , r_{2x} , r_{2y} , r_{3x} , r_{3y} , r_{4x} and r_{4y} of the demapping unit 41 all are 0, the output of an OR 73 is 0, the outputs of AND 74₁, 74₂ and 74₃ all are 0, the output of an OR 75 becomes 1 and the receiving error detector outputs an error detection signal. The receiving error detector can also comprise a ROM formed by a table indicating the correspondence

between the output of a demapping unit and an error detection signal.

Fig. 20 shows one detailed connection between the hard-decision decoder and receiving error detector described with reference to Fig. 15. Compared with that shown in Fig. 16, in Fig. 20, an AND gate 79 constituting a clock control unit 43 is added. An error detection signal outputted from a receiving error detector, which is not shown in Fig. 20, that is, the receiving error detector 42 shown in Fig. 15, is inputted to one negative logical input terminal of the AND gate 79. To the other input terminal of the AND gate 79, a master clock is inputted. If the error detection signal is L, the output of the AND gate 79 becomes the same as the master clock, and a normal master clock is provided to both the timing control unit 24 and data memory unit 27. However, if the error detection signal is H, the output of the AND gate 79 becomes L, and the operations of the timing control unit 24 and data memory unit 27 are stopped.

The effects of the multi-carrier transmission system according to the present invention described above are summarized as follows.

If, in a system commonly amplifying a plurality of sub-carriers ($N=4m:m>1$), for example, each carrier performs QPSK modulation,

1. by using a simple encoding algorithm (Fig. 3) using two groups of orthogonal QPSK signals, a peak power suppression amount 2dB, which is a logical limit in four sub-carriers, can be implemented while
5 implementing a high encoding rate (low redundancy) $R=7/8$;
2. by providing both a two-sub-carrier generation unit and a QPSK mapping unit, coding for enabling high-speed signal processing by a fully logical
10 circuit can be implemented;
3. by providing a demapping unit, a timing control unit, an encoding unit, a signal comparison unit and a data memory unit, the hard-decision decoding of the encoded codes for enabling high-speed signal
15 processing by a fully logical circuit can be implemented;
4. by a timing control unit, an encoding unit, a mapping unit, a code distance calculation unit, a code distance comparison unit, a minimum distance memory
20 unit, a code distance memory unit and a data memory unit, the soft-decision decoding of the encoded codes for enabling high-speed signal processing by a fully logical circuit can be implemented; and
5. by providing a shared memory between a soft-decision
25 decoding unit and an error correction decoding unit,

probability information can be transmitted through a memory and the most appropriate decoding can be implemented by using an error correction method.

Furthermore, if hard-decision decoding is
5 conducted in a system provided with the encoder described above, in order to implement high quality by error detection,

6. by judging whether a mapping signal is included in the conditions shown in Fig. 3 of claim 1 and
10 activating an error detection signal if the mapping signal is not included, an error can be detected for every four sub-carriers;
7. by providing both a demapping unit and an error detection unit, error detection can be implemented;
15 and
8. by incorporating a hard-decision decoder in a clock control unit and by stopping the decoding process when an error is detected, power consumption can be reduced.

20 As described above, in the transmitter, receiver and transmitting method of the multi-carrier transmission system of the present invention, communications can be conducted without using a signal pattern, the peak power of a transmitting signal becomes
25 large, and high-quality wireless transmission, the

characteristic degradation of which is minimized, can
be implemented. By matching the system to a QPSK
modulation method, the present invention is also
applicable to most current commercially available
5 wireless systems.

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